



YOUR ADOPTION PROFILE

Your adoption profile is made up of the words (the Dear Birth Mother Letter) and the photos and images that capture and share who you are and what you have to offer a child. It is your own personal story told intimately.

It provides potential birth parents with information about you as well as a way to contact you should they want to learn more about you or speak with you directly. This will be one of your primary tools for coming in contact with birth parents and networking.

Going through the process of creating an adoption profile also gives you the opportunity to truly evaluate what you have to offer a child and what you need to secure. It helps clarify your hopes and dreams, as well as explore what type of parent you will be. It is an invaluable process that can strengthen relationships, both marital and family, and will bring you together in a way that many families created through biology can't and won't experience.

There are many ideas or stories you may wish to share in your profile. It might include an event in your childhood that helped make you who you are. It might tell about the love you have for your niece and how she loves to visit you because she gets to look through your telescope at the planets and the stars. It may communicate your views about discipline as an act of love in parenting. Whatever you choose to share with potential birth mothers, it should be well thought out and care taken in both your words and photos.

It is an important document that, from the first sentence and the first photograph, has to capture the interest of a potential birth mother. It has to sketch an intriguing and truthful portrait of who you are and the kind of parent you will be. And remember, you've got competition. Other parents are out there trying to attract a birth mother, so your profile has to stand out.

It also will have contact information for you, so begin thinking now about offering a compelling reason for a birth parent to reach out to you, to learn more about you, your family, and what you have to offer her child. Your profile, like the life you have to offer a child, will be uniquely you!





Telling Birth Mothers About You

You know yourself, your hopes and your dreams. You have always known that you would have a child in your life to love and cherish, to make safe, secure and happy. Late into the night you have talked about your son or your daughter and the day you might see him or her go off to college. You know that you'll be great parents.

Now, imagine having to share about your life with a complete stranger. Your birth mother is probably a young woman. She is seeking to place her unborn baby (or child) with parents who can provide the life for her son or daughter that she wishes she could give.

Today, nine out of ten adoptions are open, and the birth mother chooses the adoptive parents. She will go through a process that is not unlike reading resumes when there's a job opening. She will put them in two stacks, one group to consider, one stack of rejects. She may also search online, bookmarking families she is interested in learning more about.

*Your profile will, either in storybook or scrapbook form, tell about you and who you are to an audience of one, your child's birth mother. Think of its working title as **Our Lives Preparing to Be Good Parents**.*

Brainstorming Your Topics

Gather friends and family around to brainstorm. Ask them what it is about you that they think would be important to share with a prospective birth mother and what they think are the qualities that would make you a great parent.

Write down their ideas; note the details of anecdotes, the stories they like to tell about you. Then gather together your current photographs, the special ones you have framed or the ones in your albums. Sit down and go through the pictures. Reminisce; add ideas and stories to your notes. This is how you start shaping the treasure trove of things you'd like a birth mother to know about you.

Open the document titled [Your Dear Birth Mother Letter Worksheet](#) to begin collecting your thoughts and ideas for the letter. If you are married, print two copies and each of you complete it separately. Then, come together and find out what areas you already have beliefs in common and what you need to work out to be on the same page in your communication and plans.

Before You Put Pencil to Paper...

Do what professional writers do first: Picture your reader in your mind. Ask yourself: What does my child's birth parent want to know?

She wants to know what kind of parents you will be. She wants to imagine her baby growing up in your family safe, having fun, getting help with homework, and learning life's lessons with kindness.



successful adoption consulting

Its tone is intimate. You are speaking from your heart to one person. Be honest and brief. In these pages, you will put some highlights that shine through to the core of your lifestyle. The letter also serves as a sort of introduction, touching on the major points you make in your profile.

If you are married, write from a “We” perspective. When referring to each spouse, use their name (“Steve enjoys fishing. Whenever we go out he always catches a fish!”). If you are going to write about each other, you may compose that section in the first person (“I admire my wife Rose for how dedicated she is to her faith”) but indicate that it is written by the spouse. If you are single, you may write your letter completely from the first person (“I completed my Masters’ degree and love my life as a first grade teacher!”)

Quick Letter Composition Guide

Tone: Intimate, warm, personal.

Writing Perspective: “We” or “I”, if married refer to spouse in third person (name) when speaking about them.

Length: At least 750 words, no more than 1,500 words.

Think about what you like to do, who you like to be around, what it’s like to live in your home and some of the adventures and fun you’ve had. Imagine what it will be like for a child, living with you in a stable, loving home with the kind of people she can trust to parent her child.

Look to your treasure trove to find what a journalist might call your lead story: the anecdote that will draw your reader in because it tells why you are the perfect parents for her child. Hopefully your lead story is funny or pithy or even dramatic. Let your outline grow out of your treasure trove of material.

There’s also a wrong way to do this: Many people will start with a *straightjacket* outline; they might decide, let’s start at the beginning and their first heading might be: *Growing Up in a Small Town*. This approach will result in a profile that is difficult and boring to read. Odds are birth mothers will put it into their reject pile or click off your page to another family before venturing further.

As you reach into your treasure trove, you will pull out some gems, like building a tree house with your dad or finding a porcelain doll in the attic of your grandma’s house. Give titles to these top stories and put them under a heading such as *Growing Up*.

As you start roughing out the text, think again (and always) of your reader. When you tell about your childhood, she wants to know what you learned that made you into the person you are and the parent you will be: the morning you saved the life of a sparrow fallen from its nest or the time after school when you broke your mother’s favorite



cookie jar and your mother responded not with anger, but with love and a kiss.

You want to cover essential topics: life in your home, the people in your family and your life, your pets, the fun things you do and your ideas about parenting. Share yourself with your birth mother. She will appreciate it.

Drafting Your Dear Birth Mother Letter

Now you can start the draft of your Dear Birth Mother letter. This is the most important part of your profile. Following is a sample outline but by no means should be considered the way you must organize your letter. There are many ways to organize your presentation to potential birth mothers and this guideline should be used as that, a guideline or a place to begin.

Introduction: Begin your letter with a greeting that is warm to your audience. Some families use “Dear Birth Mother,” “Dear Birth Family,” or just “Hi.” The first one or two paragraphs need to be engaging and pique her interest. The first page is where someone will decide to learn more about you or that you are not the one. So start with the most important information, her concern for her child. Show you have empathy and recognition for the choices she is considering now, but don’t presume you know how she feels.

About You: Talk about your immediate family. Who lives in your home, what a day looks like, family activities and values, faith, and traditions. This is your opportunity to discuss things that define who you are as a family. If you are single or don’t yet

have children, don’t skip this. You are still a family! Show what you will have to offer a child and what traditions, activities, and values you are prepared and excited to share as you build your family.

Your Friends and Family: Describe who in your family will be an active part of your child’s life. Are they excited about your adoption plans? Are there children who will be cousins to your child? What are the traditions you do as a family? Many birth parents don’t have a supportive network of family and friends so showing through words the love her child will have from them is important. If you are single, or don’t have a lot of family who will be involved, include your close friends or church family.

*Use this outline or create your own.
Organizing your content makes it
easier to write, and also easier to
read!*

Career/Jobs: Discuss what you do for a living as well as any education you completed to achieve your goals, or any future career goals. Discuss the opportunities you may have for time off after you adopt to bond with your child, if one parent will be a stay-at-home-parent, and what plans will be for childcare. If your employer offers flexible time for you to be with your child as they grow up, or if you are self-employed and set your own schedule,



these are valuable things to include. Birth mothers want to know that your family can provide opportunities, but also that you will be involved parents.

Your Home and Community: Include the state in which you live and describe the benefits of the town or area you live in. Describe your specific neighborhood, other kids in the area, parks, pools, recreational activities, safety, etc. Whatever makes your home and neighborhood desirable for raising a family, talk about in your letter! Help birth parents picture their child growing up in your home and your town. Be careful not to make this a real estate ad. Include pets, local play groups you participate in, even town traditions can be fun.

Remember, this is about YOU! Make it personal, unique, and reflective of who you are.

Interests and Hobbies: Share how you spend your time when you are not at work. Be sure to include activities that you are eager to share with a child or that a child could participate in. They don't have to be full-fledged hobbies, they may be more like interests. Often what we do in our spare time helps give people a well-rounded picture of who we are. For instance, an accountant who decorates cakes and teaches Sunday School to toddlers sounds much more interesting than just an accountant.

About Me: Include a section that is personal to you. (If you are single with no children, your *About Us* section may have the same information that would be included here.) You can each write your own, or you can write about your partner. You should emphasize special things, traits, and talents that you may not have previously mentioned, or, that may be better incorporated here. For instance, you may want to discuss career, education and hobbies here rather than in separate sections.

About Adoption: Include why you are pursuing adoption and what level of contact you are open to in the future. It is important to be honest and offer a commitment that you will keep. There is no right or wrong information to share, just share the truth. If you are not open to ongoing contact, then don't say you are. Include how you will share adoption with your child.

Parenting: Be specific when you talk about parenting, such as what you want to provide your child and what activities you look forward to teaching or passing down. It's great to be specific, mentioning late night feedings, back to school nights, little league games, and driving lessons. Use your own examples to illustrate your commitment to your child. Also discuss sharing values and life's lessons as a part of parenting.

Closing: You need to end your letter with a compelling reason for her to reach out and contact you, along with a way to reach you. Include any final thoughts or commitments you are willing to make. Provide a closing, like you would for a letter and hand sign each profile.



Areas to Avoid in Your Letter

There are certain things to avoid as you compose your letter. Be sure you are mindful of them.

Complicated Words, Idioms and Flowery

Language: You may be over-the-moon anxious to be introduced to the selfless, brave woman who will make all your dreams come true by providing the gift of a child through the miracle of adoption, but there's a simpler way to say it. Make your letter easy to read, straightforward, and something that will be easily understood if someone is simply scanning it. Don't try to impress through advanced grammar or too many adjectives.

I Know How You Feel: Unless you have placed a child for adoption, you don't know how she feels. Don't presume through your language that you do. Leave out language about a "difficult decision" or the "challenges" that she may face. Maybe adoption is an easy decision for her and one that makes her feel confident in her child's future.

Personal Information: It is wise to omit specific towns, company names, and even colleges attended. This will be an intimate look at your lives, but it is okay to keep some information private or on a "need to know" basis, especially as this letter will be distributed and available online.

Excess punctuation: Even if you know the intricacies of semi-colon use, keeping punctuation simple is best in your letter. Periods, commas, exclamation points, and the occasional colon or hyphen will suffice.

Final Edits

Review your letter to ensure it is upbeat and positive. A birth mother only has your profile that will be "speaking" on your behalf. It needs to provide a snap shot of your life, and through that, the live her child will have with you.

Be honest, if you really like watching TV and are homebodies, don't say you are into climbing mountains on weekends. Here's an example of how you might describe your activities.

The wrong way: "We mostly watch TV on weekends."

The right way: "We enjoy relaxing at home on weekends by taking in a good comedy, game or mystery on television. This gives us time to enjoy each other's company. Many times friends and family gather at our home for fun and laughter."

You can see that it's better to create a setting and bring your reader (birth parent) into your life through your words. The birth mother(and possibly her family) are going to read your profile and will appreciate that you have spent time to draw a clear picture of where the child will live. Ask yourself, "If I were a birth parent having to find a home for my child, what would be important to me?"

Once you've finished the letter, leave it alone. Don't get stuck trying to make it perfect or you might lose the sentiment that touches the hearts of birth mothers.



successful adoption consulting

What If I Forget Something?

Here are ten things to be sure that you cover in your letter:

1. The stability of your relationship, if married. If single, your community of family/friends.
2. Your extended family. Where do they live? Is your adoption something that everyone in the family is excited for?
3. Financial stability. What are your career accomplishments and goals?
4. Plans for child care. Who, where and when will the child be in childcare? Many adoptive parents overlook this until a birth mother asks. She wants to know that her child will be loved, held, and spoken to. If she feels that she will do a better job than daycare, some women may back away from that family. Be truthful though. If you need to work, state that. Share the plans you have to take time off at birth or when the child comes to live with you.
5. Time off when you adopt. Check with your employer about company policy regarding leave for adoption. Most large companies are now offering "adoption leave" with pay. Now is an excellent time to put in overtime, pick up a second job, have a garage sale, sell the boat you don't use, and put this money aside for adoption. Save up paid time off for when the baby comes. Share these plans with the birth mother.
6. What type of town or country will the child grow up in? When describing your town, step back as if you didn't live there. You can

- include details, historical notes, and points of interest. Some families note the population; others mention the distance from the ocean, mountains or a major city. Some families feel comfortable stating the city they live in, others only the state, it is entirely up to you.
7. Education. Mention local schools (if they are good) or if you are planning on private school.
 8. Ongoing contact. State clearly the type of ongoing contact you are willing to share, such as letters and photos, visits, email, texts, etc. If you are not comfortable with contact after placement, it is very hard to say this in your letter without sounding selfish. Most birth parents just want to know that they have made the right decision and that the baby is loved and everyone is still happy in the years following the adoption.
 9. Don't mention your age. If the birth mother is 15 years old and you are 30, to her you might seem old. Birth mothers have turned down a family because they are too young or too old. We want her to look at you for who you are and what you can offer a child. If she wants to know your age, she will ask.
 10. Family size is important. Some birth parents seek families who are already parents and approach parenting in an experienced manner that can be reassuring. Others want their child to be the "first" child. You are who you are and there is a special child for you.



successful adoption consulting



Picture Perfect

Edit the photographs you'll want to include. Look for the top ten or so that you will use in the profile to illustrate your interests, your traditions and your lifestyle. Include some

photos where you are celebrating a birthday or holiday with the special people in your life.

Include a picture showing you pursuing a passion in life, like coaching a little league team or as a volunteer for your niece's school. If you have a favorite picture that is blurry or far away, it can't go into your final profile. Include only your best quality photos. Clear photos are best when possible.



From your scrapbook photos, your birth mother will get a glimpse of you in the past. Now it's time to show her photos of you in the present, because within a few months, she may be placing her child with you.

As you gather other photos for your profile, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Include photos less than two years old.
- Include a wide variety of photos, including showing pictures of some of the hobbies and activities you discuss in your letter.

- Try to avoid a lot of posed photos. Get candid shots.
- If you have children, show plenty of photos of you interacting with them.
- Use a good quality camera. Smart phone photos are okay if the quality is good.
- Most people don't already have good photos for profiles, they have to take them. This is an important step and should not be neglected.
- Make sure photos are in a variety of outfits and seasons if possible. If all your photos are in the same outfit, it will be obvious that they were all staged and taken on the same day.
- If you aren't very familiar with photo editing, enlist the help of a friend who is. Photo editing should not make you look larger or slimmer.

Ask family members or your best friends to come and be a part of your pictures. Your birth mother will want to see the people her child will be sharing his or her life with. Take some photos of you with children: the prospective adoptive father pushing his nephew on the swing in your backyard, you and a friend laughing together, a prospective mother brushing her niece's hair. Show family pets if appropriate.





Make some calls and find a professional photographer who will come to your home to take casual portraits of you, as a single or a couple and then as a family or with friends. Tell the photographer why you need the photos and allow him or her to use their expertise to help set up the poses you need.



Here are our recommendations for ensuring you will have success during your professional photo session:

- Find a photographer that specializes in photographing people in portraits or at weddings. If possible, don't choose a studio setting (like Sears' or Olan Mills).
- You should have one photo taken that is above the shoulders. This is best for your first page. The photo should clearly show your eyes to make a personal connection.
- Have greenery, flowers or something natural in the background.
- Overcast days or early in the morning are best for outdoor photos.
- Use at least two sets of clothes.
- Do not wear all black or all white for your photos.
- No sunglasses or hats. Gentlemen, no ties in your main, casual photo.
- Use an action shots. Water sports are very popular with birth mothers.
- 4x6 size is ideal.
- Stay relaxed and have fun!

Putting It Together

Now that you've written your *Dear Birth Mother Letter* and chosen only the best of your photographs, it's time to put it all together. To get an idea of what you want your profile to look like, see the samples we've included or, if working with an adoption professional, ask them to provide you with samples of some of the best profiles of successful adoptive families.

You may want to have your profile laid out by hand (scrapbook style) or designed on a computer. This is a great place to enlist the help of friends or family members who may have talent in this area and a desire to help you!

You can use the cut and paste method to create a dummy layout. Get glue and scissors. Print out your text and gather your photos; make color copied photos for your dummy layout. Cut the text into sections. Stick it to blank sheets of paper along with the photos you'll use to illustrate the words. Under the photos, write captions. This will help you determine the number of pages you need and will help whittle down the photos and stories you have chosen to tell.



Or, you may choose to jump right in to the design phase! Whether creating by hand or computer, sit down and organize your photos and words into one page per topic.



Larry's Scary Beard

"Why are we not getting even a nibble?" asked Renee Groves. She had come by my office wondering why five other couples who were adopting through our center had been matched, while not one birth mother had expressed an interest in her and her husband's profile. Our coordinators had presented their profile to some 50 birth mothers.

I looked straight at Renee. "Would Larry shave off his beard if you asked him to?" Renee glanced at me with surprise.

"He's had that beard since I've known him, and that's been over 15 years," she said, wondering what I was thinking.

I gathered myself to speak boldly. If I remained silent, I knew they might never get their baby.

"One of the birth mothers said Larry looked like an ax murderer!" I blurted out.



I showed Renee the picture. Larry's full beard, badly in need of a trim, hid his face and his smile. All you

could see were his eyes looking menacingly at the camera. He was one of many prospective fathers I've worked with who needed a shave before a birth mother would consider them.

Renee held the profile in her hand, looking at the photograph. She set it on my desk. "I'll tell him to shave it," she said.

A few days later I opened a Federal Express envelope. Inside I found the portrait of a clean-shaven man who looked kind and loving, holding hands with his lovely wife, Renee.

If your adoption consultant advises you to make profile changes, it is important to do it. They have experience working with birth mothers.

We sent the new profiles out and soon a birth mother wanted to talk with the Groves. Unlike the previous birth mothers who saw someone looking sinister, the woman who saw the new photo saw Larry's true nature with a nice warm smile that had been hidden beneath a beard. She wasn't put off by a bad first impression and took the time to read through the profile and learn why he and Renee would make good parents.

They soon matched with a birth mother who fell in love with the Groves while talking with them over the phone. When they finally met in person, Larry had grown his beard back, and that was okay. By then the birth mother had gotten to know the person inside.



successful adoption consulting

Little Things Mean a Lot

Some things you might consider trivial could be the deciding factor for a birth mother. Go for those things that make you unique. Some tidbits that are a big hit with birth mothers are:



- We built a beautiful home in a quiet neighborhood on half an acre. It's a bit large for us now, but we are anxious to grow into it.
- Our home is the meeting place for almost all our family gatherings. It was designed to entertain, and we fill it with lots of family, friends and fun every chance we get.

- Traditions are a big part of what ties our family together. We particularly enjoy Christmas Eve dinner by candlelight, Thanksgiving Day parades, autumn pumpkin festivals and Easter sunrise breakfast.
- We promise that our child will know from day one that s/he was loved and cherished by you, and we will love and cherish him/her, as well. Together, we can create a loving bond that will surround our child for life.
- John will be a great father, devoted to helping a baby feel welcome and secure in God's world.
- We love the small-town living of our quiet, safe environment. We know most of the people in our community and enjoy the closeness it provides.
- We will provide for a quality education and give your child the support to become whatever he or she desires to be.
- We have two loving dogs, Max and Daisy. They are wonderful companions and love children.
- Together we have over 30 nieces and nephews, consisting of both adopted and biological children.
- We love BMX racing with our boys, and encouraging them in other activities that they want to pursue.

Most birth parents want to provide a normal, stable home. What might sound routine and mundane to you, is probably exactly what they are looking for!





successful adoption consulting

“I Wanted to Ask You...”

Just as adoptive parents ask for help and advice, so do birth parents. For them, there are suggested questions to ask of you! This list, compiled from years of working with birth mothers, will help you ensure you've addressed the questions birth parents want answered, and it will help you prepare to speak with prospective birth mothers.

- Why do you want to adopt?
- How do you feel about adopting?
- If married, how long have you been married?
- Do you have children already?
- Do you have experience with children?
- What kind of recreation or hobbies do you enjoy?
- Do you have strong religious beliefs?
- How old are you?
- Do you both work or will one parent be home with the baby?
- What are your views on child discipline?
- Do you have extended family or relatives living nearby?
- What do your family and relatives think about your plans to adopt?
- Will you tell the child he is adopted? When and how?
- What will you tell the child about his birth mother? About his birth father?
- What do you hope for the child's education?
- Are you willing to maintain contact with the birth mother as your child grows up?
- What type of contact would you like to have with the birth mother?

You may or may not answer all of these in your profile, and that's okay. Just knowing the answers will prepare you for that moment a birth mother calls you on the phone. You've got one last thing to consider...

What will it be like when a birth mother calls? How will she call? What if you're not home? What if you're on vacation? What if you went out for a quick dinner? What then?

Contact Information: Are You There for Birth Mother Calls?

Most adoptive parents set up a toll-free number so birth parents can call anytime. This is the preferred method for women to reach out and get in touch with you. And now, adding a toll-free number is more affordable than ever. You can forward it to

Provide reliable methods for potential birth mothers to contact you, and then be sure you respond right away when they do. 30% of families searching for a birth mother take more than 24 hours to respond. Responding right away will set you apart from the rest.



successful adoption consulting

your cell phone, home phone, or even a friend or family member if you travel outside of the country or have a medical emergency.

Remember to set up appropriate voicemail on whatever line it will be directed to. If a birth mother calls and gets no answer or is greeted by a machine, she may never call back. Whoever answers must be prepared to ask her the appropriate questions without scaring her away. If you choose to put your personal home phone number on the Internet or in the newspaper, be very careful.

Give a birth parent a variety of ways to contact you such as:

- ✓ *Calling your toll free 800 number*
- ✓ *Emailing you at the email address you include*
- ✓ *Visiting your website*

Another effective method is listing an email address that someone can contact you with. Ensure it is an email address that is tied to your cell phone so you are alerted right away. Again, you don't want her to have to wait more than an hour or two for a response or she may find someone else.

Once you set up these methods for your birth mother to contact you, you will need to include these in your profile as well.

Reviewing Your Profile

Once you have it complete, sit with it for a day or two. Really determine if it conveys who you are and what you have to offer before you have it reviewed.



One word of caution: you may or may not want to have it reviewed by all of your friends and family. Many times, their first inclination may be to ask "Why didn't you include me?"

Your profile should include the people who will be the main ones in your child's life, other than parents. This includes siblings, grandparents, and more briefly, aunts, uncles, and cousins. But, you can't include Aunt Mavis, Uncle Artie, and your long lost cousin Sid, all of whom you only see at Christmas. Overwhelming a birth mother with relatives or friends can seem like the focus has shifted from learning about you, to learning about a giant family.

Keep it focused and simple, and only ask opinions from one or two, if you seek any opinions. The reality is that reviews you get from people who work with birth parents routinely are far more important than what your mother thinks.



An important thing to remember is to hand sign each profile, just like you would a letter. This shows you took time and care.

Once you are done with any edits or modifications, it's time to send it in for review. Print the [Profile Review Request](#) form and mail a copy to us for review at:

*Adoption For Life: Profile Review
400 Idaho Maryland Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945*

We will do a thorough review, looking at your spelling and grammar, photo selection, printing method, cohesiveness, and general attractiveness. We will evaluate it based on birth mother feedback. We will then provide you with a list of suggestions to make it stronger and geared toward meeting current birth mother requests and needs.

Once you incorporate suggestions, you are ready to print and bind together! Then, the exciting part begins – distributing them!

Your Profile Online

Most families will create and design an online profile for additional exposure. Take a look at some samples online and then decide what you want your profile to look like online. One advantage of creating your own is that you are in complete control of how long it is, how many photos you can have, adding video, music, or anything! You can also network uniquely through other methods often not available to people waiting with an agency.

You may also want to post your profile on one website or on several. Some sites will charge you a monthly fee, and some will charge a setup fee to post your profile. Go to sites devoted to posting profiles. You'll see that some of them are simple and effective. Others are stylish. Look for sites that are easy to navigate and pleasing to view.

If your profile is already in digital form such as a PDF, you can add it to your website so a birth mother or adoption professional can print it out!

In today's world of adoption, it is your profile and most likely the one you post online that will connect you with the birth mother of the child meant for you.

If you enter the words <dear birth mother letter> into a search engine, you'll find websites that adoptive parents have created to promote their profiles.

You can do this too. You may have a friend or colleague who works as a web designer, or you can hire one to create your own site. If you have computer skills and are willing to learn, you can do it yourself.



To create a simple page, explore creating a site using WordPress. Some hosts will place your page online for free. Others have instant webpage creators. It is possible, using their online tools, to have your profile website up and running within a day!

Some families are nervous about being listed online. We understand, but encourage you to do it without identifying information (like last names, cities, etc.) to protect your privacy.

Fine Tuning Your Profile

If you go to a number of *Dear Birth Mother* sites, you'll see some nice looking profiles and others where the photos are poor in quality or where the husband or wife looks gloomy. These couples will be waiting a long time for a match. Sometimes all it takes is a small change in your profile to make it effective, a change that will result in a lot of birth mother interest in you.

If your adoption professional asks you to make changes, like taking a better photograph, or changing your text, don't take offense. Do it! We want one thing: lots of birth mothers reading your profile and wanting you to adopt the baby they're seeking a family for.

Sample Dear Birth Parent Letter

Dear Birth Parent,
We are Jack and Sharon, an energetic and fun-loving couple with a tremendous love for each other and children. We fell in love in college and always planned we would have a family. After eight years of marriage and six years of trying to have babies through infertility treatments, we knew God had a different plan for us.

We had a nephew, Brandon, who was adopted, and, in seeing the joy he brought to Sharon's sister and their family, we decided to adopt. In the summer of 2008, our beautiful son, Noah, came into our lives. Now we want to adopt a brother or sister for him, and grow our family again through adoption.

Jack has seven siblings and Sharon has three sisters. Our families live nearby and we are fortunate to see them often. Our parents are thrilled about having a new grandchild!

About Our Home and Interests

We have a spacious three-bedroom ranch style house. Our backyard is filled with flowers, a sandbox, a playhouse and a beautiful wooden swing set. One of the swings, in the shape of an airplane, was Jack's as a child. We live near the beach, the zoo and other recreational facilities.

We have three adorable cats: Callie, Willow and Dewey. They love sunning themselves on the deck, pouncing on unsuspecting leaves or cuddling with us on the couch.



We gather in the summer with our neighborhood friends and their children for cookouts and stargazing parties with our marshmallow roasts. This past summer, we stayed at a cozy family resort in the mountains. Noah loved feeding the ducks in the pond, learning about nature and, of course, swimming in the pool!

Jack Tells about Sharon

She's the love of my life! Because of her passion for children, Sharon works part time as a pediatric nurse at a community hospital. The children like her because of her patience and sense of humor. Active in the community, she volunteers at vaccination clinics and teaches a babysitting class to young teens.

For as long as I've known Sharon, she has wanted to be a mother. Adopting Noah was a dream come true for her. I see her with Noah and know that she was meant to be a mother. One of her most wonderful traits is the respect she has for the feelings of others, for each of the adults and children in her life.

Sharon Writes about Jack

He's a committed husband and a wonderful listener. If I could use only one word to describe him, I'd say he's sensitive. He'll do anything for a friend who needs him and is always ready to help someone less fortunate than he is. He runs his own successful tile business and works out of our home. As a little league coach, he always has words of encouragement for his players, especially when they lose a game.

It warms my heart to see him play and cuddle with Noah. He has settled easily into being a daddy. Creative and artistic, he plays the guitar and writes music and poetry. Noah and I especially enjoy it when he sings off key!

We Love Noah

What a happy little boy we have. An outgoing and energetic toddler, he can't wait to be a big brother! His favorite things are piggyback rides, singing, playing in the leaves, making snow angels and helping Mommy make chocolate chip cookies. He is eager to play little league with Daddy as his coach!

Our Thanks to You!

Together, we share a loving relationship built on trust, mutual respect and commitment to our family. We were both raised with a strong faith in God and believe that a child should have a solid spiritual foundation.

We value education and will provide our children with every opportunity we possibly can to live meaningful and fulfilling lives. We admire your devotion to finding a secure, loving home for your baby. If you choose us as adoptive parents, we are willing to keep you updated, if you wish, through letters and pictures. Please know that there will never be a moment when your child will doubt that he or she is cherished and loved unconditionally.

Thank you for taking the time to read about us. Please call Lifetime Adoption at 1-800-923-6784 for more information and to speak with us.

*Warmest regards,
Jack and Sharon*